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A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION PROCESS REFORM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 3173) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to reform the process for the enrollment, activation, issuance, and renewal of a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) to require, in total, not more than one in-person visit to a designated enrollment center, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IS THE LAW OF THE LAND

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I rise today because this is a great country. In fact, I would call it the greatest country in the world.

Throughout my life's history, although we have traveled mountains and low valleys, I have been equal and unequal in this Nation. Yet today I feel as tall as the pine trees because our Supreme Court shed itself of diverse and sometimes divisive bickering and upheld the Constitution of the United States.

It granted to the American people affordable health care. It granted to the sickest of the sick the opportunity to be covered by insurance. It granted to seniors who fall into doughnut holes and who have to choose prescription drugs over food a relief line. It granted to hospitals that take in indigent patients who may otherwise die on sidewalks in America an opportunity to take care of those patients. It gave children with preexisting diseases an opportunity to live fully in this country.

So now the Affordable Care Act is the law of the land. We have been vindicated. Every single, single vote of those Members who have lost and of those who have won, we've been vindicated. Thank God for the United States Supreme Court.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain Special Order speeches without prejudice to the resumption of legislative business.

#### THE PROGRESSIVE MESSAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, my name is KEITH ELLISON, and I claim this Special Order time on behalf of the Progressive Caucus. I am very pleased to be joined by my dear friend from the great State of Ohio, Mr. DENNIS KUCINICH.

The Progressive Caucus has a Web site we refer people to, which is [cpc.grijalva.house.gov](http://cpc.grijalva.house.gov). I urge everybody to check it out because it has a lot of excellent information.

This we call The Progressive Message. Today, we are going to focus on three topics, Mr. Speaker. They will be in the areas of: (1) historic health care; (2) the travesty of justice perpetuated on Eric Holder; (3) the voter ID issue that is proliferating across the country, that of trying to restrict and suppress the votes of Americans. So that's our Progressive Message for today.

I want to introduce the first subject by saying that today was a historic day. The historic health care bill was passed many, many months ago; but until the Supreme Court of the United States said that this bill was constitutional, that this act was constitutional, it was always in jeopardy of being overturned. In the Progressive Caucus, many of us were signatories and cosponsors of H.R. 676, which is the single-payer bill—or health care for all and Medicare for all.

Personally, I think today is a dramatic step forward in the quest to make sure that all Americans are covered and can go to a doctor. This is a very important step—it's an advance—so I'm happy to see it.

With that, I would like to just turn some time over to the gentleman from Ohio for any comments he may care to make about the health care bill or about the Supreme Court decision.

I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. KUCINICH. I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota, Congressman ELLISON, for his leadership in the Progressive Caucus and to thank him for yielding me some time to talk about this momentous decision by the Supreme Court. First of all, a little bit of context.

I represent Cleveland, Ohio. There are many people in Cleveland who are uninsured. There are many people in Cleveland who could not afford health care. There are many people who are working who can't get their families covered.

This issue of health care reform is one of the defining issues in our country, and it's one that we finally grappled with in 2010 to come up with a bill that not everyone agreed with. As a matter of fact, as Mr. ELLISON will remember, I didn't agree with this. I was not satisfied with health care reform within the context of a for-profit system because I wanted a not-for-profit system. Yet, while we had a for-profit system, one of the things we needed to do was to make sure children with pre-existing conditions would be covered; to make sure all of these lifetime caps on the amount of money that people could claim for expenses were removed; and to make sure that people were given a fighting chance with the insurance companies.

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What's happened is the Affordable Care Act finally took a step in the direction of reform. It's an important step, and the Supreme Court has said you can do that under Congress' taxing authority, but it's just a step.

All of us understand that there are still millions of Americans who are finding health care out of reach, even with the help that the Affordable Care Act offers. That's why at the State level there are still States, such as Vermont, that are looking at how they can go forward with a single-payer plan within their State.

Mr. ELLISON. Let me just ask the gentleman a question.

You had an amendment that we were trying to move onto the Affordable Care Act which would allow States, if they chose to, to pursue alternatives like a single-payer system.

Do you recall your amendment?

Mr. KUCINICH. Keep in mind that the Employee Retirement Income Security Act essentially would stop States from going forward, so we asked basically for a waiver of that. The amendment would have provided for a waiver so States would have no legal bar to pursue a single-payer system. That was essentially passed in committee and then stripped out.

The point is we can enable it. Congress can facilitate that. The passage of affordable care, plus the Supreme Court saying Congress can move on health care, Congress can take a step, finally puts us in a position where we can elevate health care to the highest level of public concern.

Every American who is out there tonight who's worried about whether they would be able to get access to affordable health care suddenly realizes that it is possible. For those poor people across America who are wondering whether they are going to be shut out by one aspect of the Supreme Court decision, now it's up to the States to reaffirm the position of the State in the life of their citizens by saying, if you're a poor person, we're not going to use the Supreme Court decision to block you from having access to the resources of the government with respect to health care.